Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [019] with the following amended paragraph:

[019] Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the process of metering international mail so that terminal dues will be paid. Electronic postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 may be used to print indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18 (Fig. 1). During a communication between postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 with data center 132, it will be indicated that meter 130 or meter 131 printed indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18. Meters 130 and/or 131 will also transmit all of the information contained in indicia 20 and barcode 30 (Fig.1A) to data center 132. Data center 132 will transmit the information contained in indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18 to mail records controller 133. The operation of meters 130 and 131 will be described in the description of Fig. 3. Mail records controller 133 will transmit the information it receives from data center 132 to data base 102, where a record is created specifically referenced to the issued unique number 18 for a particular meter 130 or 131 account number. The record is a proof of validity of postal indicia 20 and 31 having an issued unique number 18 for a particular meter, and the proof is provided when data base 102 is consulted. Mail piece records controller 133 will also transmit the information it receives from data center 132 to mail processing controller 134. Mail processing controller 134 will exchange information with internal mail pieces sorting and routing process 107.

Please replace paragraph [027] with the following amended paragraph:

[027] Fig. 3 is a block diagram of postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 of Fig. 2. The first step takes place at decision block 150. Decision block 150 determines whether or not the next mail is present. If block 150 determines that the next mail is not present, the next step will be step 162. Step 162 clears buffers 154A – 154E. If block 150 determines that the next mail is present, the next step will be step 151. Step 151 obtains all mail rating parameters from the operator of meters 130 or 131 and/or another external source, i.e., how much does the mail weigh, the size of the mail, where is the mail going, what is the level of mail service, the contents of the mail, etc., and places them in buffer 154A. Next in step 152 the mail entry location and first carrier are obtained and placed in rating buffer 154A. Next, in step 153 the delivery location of the mail and the final carrier is obtained from the operator of meters 130 or 131 and/or another external source and stored in buffer 154A. Then in step 155 all desired special services are obtained from the operator of meters 130 or 131. The data from step 155 is stored in buffer 154A. In step 156 the correct route and fees are verified with data center 132, i.e., the information obtained from buffer 154A is verified with remote data center 132.